

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Emergency Operations Plan



Transportation Volume II Support Annex 5

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

September 2007

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A. Purposes

1. To define roles and missions of federal, state and local government vis-a-vis Virginia's transportation agencies prior to, during and after a disaster.
2. To establish Transportation Agency responsibilities in coping with a disaster.
3. To provide guidance on the concept of operations during the three distinct phases of a disaster: preparedness, response and recovery.

B. Authority and References

1. Authority

This plan has been prepared in consonance with relevant plans and programs of the state government and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. It is issued in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Law of 1973, as amended (Code of Virginia, Section 44-146.3, et seq).

2. References

- a. The Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950 (Public Law 920, 81st U. S. Congress) as amended by Public Law 96-342 (September 1980).
- b. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.
- c. The National Response Plan (HSPD-5, as amended), December 2004.

C. Missions

1. Secretary of Transportation

To monitor and coordinate, as needed, the activities of the following state departments and agencies with transportation-related duties and responsibilities in order to support disaster response and recovery operations and to effectively manage transportation resources across all modes.

2. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

- a. To maintain the state highway system, to include debris clearance and restoration following an emergency or disaster.
- b. To facilitate, in coordination with the State Police and affected local governments, traffic movement during a large-scale evacuation and re-entry.
- c. To provide an Initial Damage Assessment report within 72 hours of damages to state highways, roads, and bridges to the State EOC.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Transportation Support Annex 5, Volume II**

- d. To provide ground transportation (central garage pool), back-up communications, and other available resources as needed in support of State EOC operations.
 - e. To operate and maintain the State Transportation EOC (TEOC).
- 3. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

To coordinate the transport of essential goods and people over all modes in support of the State TEOC during emergency operations and recovery.
- 4. Department of Aviation
 - a. To perform airlift missions in direct support of the State TEOC during emergency response and recovery.
 - b. To assist by providing resources for the transport of essential goods via air as appropriate.
 - c. To provide an Initial Damage Assessment report to the State TEOC within 72 hours of damages to airports, airplanes, and airport facilities in the disaster area, excluding military or other federally-owned property or facilities.
- 5. Department of Rail and Public Transportation
 - a. To coordinate with the railroad companies to maintain the railway system, to include restoration following an emergency or disaster.
 - b. To provide an Initial Damage Assessment report to the State TEOC within 72 hours of damages to the state's railway system.
- 6. Virginia Port Authority
 - a. To coordinate with ports to restore damaged port facilities following a disaster.
 - b. To provide an Initial Damage Assessment report to the State TEOC within 72 hours of damages to ports in the disaster area, excluding military or other federally-owned property or facilities.

D. Organization

- 1. The Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Department of Aviation (DOA), the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), and the Virginia Port Authority (VPA) have primary and support transportation-related roles as listed above.
- 2. The State Transportation EOC (TEOC) serves as the Transportation Secretariat's coordinating entity for emergency operations.
- 3. The role of the Secretary of Transportation is primarily one of oversight and coordination as needed. These agencies or modes inherently tend to operate semi-independently; they will be working directly and separately under the coordination of the State TEOC.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Transportation Support Annex 5, Volume II**

E. Concept of Operations

1. The TEOC will arrange to provide full information (which may include a liaison officer) to the State EOC. The TEOC will act for all four of the above departments, and will keep the State EOC informed of status appropriately. Any parts of the transportation network or any facilities not fully operational due to the emergency or disaster situation should be reported. Any existing or potential factors or conditions impairing efficient operations should be identified.
2. State Organization

State-directed emergency transportation operations will be in consonance with, and responsive to, regional and national policy directives, controls, and procedures of the federal government. The actual process of emergency management of transportation within the Commonwealth is the responsibility of state and local government. During a transportation emergency, the state will depend upon the industry to perform voluntarily and under each company's own management. Intervention under the Commonwealth's emergency powers into direct operations will be consistent with federal regulatory controls and only to the degree normal regular processes are inadequate to meet essential emergency demands.

Transportation organization is as follows:

a. VDOT:

- 1) The Transportation Emergency Operations Center (TEOC), the Central Office Security & Emergency Management Division and the entire Central Office Staff.
- 2) The nine districts with their residencies and area headquarters.

b. Other Transportation Agencies

For purposes of coordination only, the Virginia Port Authority, the Departments of Aviation, Motor Vehicles, Rail and Public Transportation, and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Authority will report to the TEOC for emergency operations purposes.

More detailed concepts, procedures, and action checklists are included in agency-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Virginia Port Authority and are implemented in coordination with the TEOC.

- c. Although the State Police and local law enforcement have the primary responsibility for effecting a large-scale evacuation and re-entry, VDOT also has a major role (1) by providing the transportation system upon which such an evacuation will take place, to include barricades, signs, and other expedient control devices and (2) by using its traffic control centers and other resources to monitor the ongoing situation. Close coordination will be required. The most likely large-scale evacuation scenario to plan for is a major hurricane threatening the metropolitan Tidewater area. See the Hurricane Emergency Response Plan.
- d. Local Transportation Secretariat offices, including VDOT Residency Shops and Area Headquarters, constitute a major manpower and equipment resource in their respective localities. They are expected to routinely coordinate their emergency planning and response activities directly with local governments. Local offices and residency shops must also develop and maintain a capability for reporting post-disaster damage assessment information.

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Transportation Support Annex 5, Volume II**

They must report any disaster-related damages to highways, roads, and bridges as soon as known to the TEOC in Richmond using standard procedures.

- e. All state departments and agencies with transportation-related responsibilities will provide emergency services within their modal scope of operations. They will be coordinated with each other as needed in order to manage transportation resources efficiently and complete task assignments. Overall coordination is effected by the State Transportation EOC, and any resolution of conflicting interests will be resolved by the Secretary of Transportation.
- f. The Secretary of Transportation, during a transportation emergency will coordinate the activities of all transportation modes and recommend imposition of transportation control systems, as required. The Secretary of Transportation will work through other state agencies to develop appropriate courses of action to be recommended to the Governor to counteract a potential or actual transportation emergency.
- g. The State Transportation departments and agencies, in coordination with the Federal Government and the transportation industry, will provide necessary equipment, facilities, and personnel in response to emergency requirements. All intrastate transportation available for emergency management purposes will be subject to their control with the following exceptions:
 - 1) Transportation required for military, federal, or civilian personnel or supplies.
 - 2) Federally controlled or operated vessels, trains, vehicles, or aircraft, unless specifically made available.
 - 3) Commercial or scheduled air carriers (interstate carriers).
 - 4) Ocean-going vessels.
- h. In accordance with state and federal policies, the transportation industry, will function under its own management and operate systems and facilities to provide the maximum service to fill essential needs as specified by appropriate federal, state, and local government authorities. The transportation industry will be responsible for continuity of management, protection of personnel and facilities, conservation of supplies, restoration of damaged lines and terminals, rerouting, expansion or improvement of operations, and securing of necessary manpower, materials, and services.
- i. Carriers and shippers will conduct business as usual whenever possible. Payments for transportation services will be made in the normal manner except when the consignor or consignee is an emergency management state or federal agency. The unit or agency involved will be billed for services. The principal change from accustomed business conditions will be controls which may be placed upon the use of transportation to assure that service is being utilized for essential survival activities in support of disaster areas on a priority basis, and for the other areas of the state as available and required.

3. Federal Government

Under federal law, the U. S. Secretary of Transportation is responsible for exercising leadership in national and regional transportation emergencies. The U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will be responsive to requests for assistance from state and local governments in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during a resource crisis

**Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan
Transportation Support Annex 5, Volume II**

or a natural disaster. DOT functions through its regional agencies, implementing pertinent elements of their regional emergency transportation disaster plans and coordinating the emergency response of the federal transportation agencies. The DOT regional representative, Region 3, will furnish Federal assistance and support for transportation emergencies to the Commonwealth.

#